

Oglala Sioux Tribe

DOCKET FILE COPY Original
Office of the President

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1851



1868

John Yellow Bird St

June 7, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUN 18 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Attn: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

96-45

I understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. I am contacting you to express my opposition to this unfair and arbitrary proposal.

Although the proposed approach may provide a "quick-fix" to fund growth, it would also result in a terrible disservice to rural consumers in general and Native Americans on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in particular. Native Americans, like other rural consumers, want and need expanded and improved wireless services in rural areas for public safety, healthcare, economic development, business and personal needs. This is one of the main benefits that rural consumers receive from the universal service fund, just as Congress envisioned when it initially established the fund in 1997.

A wireless-only cap is clearly anti-competitive because it singles out wireless technology, which consumers are choosing more and more over landlines. In isolated and economically depressed areas, such as the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, wireless communication is, quite often, the only affordable avenue by which communications can be obtained at a reasonable price.

Native Americans are no longer content to have access to only traditional wireline telephone service and are demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. As rural consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Additionally, wireless service in rural areas provides consumers with access to broadband services where broadband services are not otherwise available.

Federal Communications Commission

June 7, 2007

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This is an extremely important factor as we seek to bring access to the information age throughout our reservation. Without continued support for the expansion and upgrading of rural service, Native Americans on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation will not receive these benefits.

I have witnessed, firsthand, the benefits provided by expanded wireless services on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by inappropriate USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support. The Tate Woglaka Service Agreement that we established with Alltel is a prime example of this.

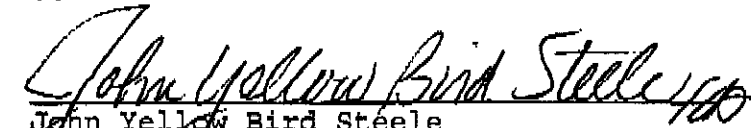
Please consider what limiting the growth of wireless access will mean for rural America and Indian country. Wireless technology plays an ever-increasing role in economic growth and is a critical instrument in emergency situations, but if the recommended cap is implemented, many Indian reservations may never realize these benefits. In a country that prides itself on equality, it seems hypocritical to restrict certain individuals' access to an essential tool simply because of their geographic location, especially when they have contributed for years to the USF along with everyone else.

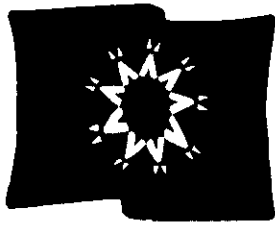
I am sending a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe to Washington, D.C. to act as our representative in these matters. His name is Joseph RedCloud and he was one of the co-authors of the Tate Woglaka Service Agreement. He currently serves our Tribe in our Economic Development Office. He will be able to best articulate the telecommunications difficulties and needs of our Tribe. Mr. RedCloud does not make policy decisions for our Tribe but he will be reporting to our Finance and Economic & Business Development Committees upon his return.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider the efforts made by many Native American Tribes in their efforts to achieve some sense of parity in telecommunications compared with the rest of the country as you seek to reform the existing fund. I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

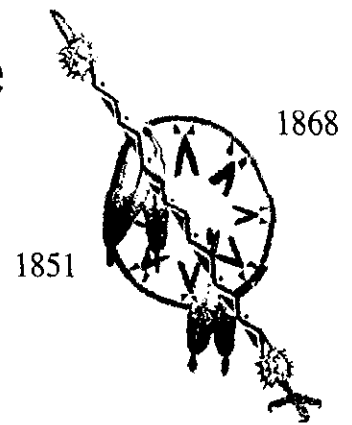

John Yellow Bird Steele
President



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Attn: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
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RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337 + CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

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Native Americans are no longer content to have access to only traditional wireline telephone service and are demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. As rural consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Additionally, wireless service in rural areas provides consumers with access to broadband services where broadband services are not otherwise available.

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I have witnessed, firsthand, the benefits provided by expanded wireless services on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and I do not want to see those benefits diminished by inappropriate USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support. The Tate Woglaka Service Agreement that we established with Alltel is a prime example of this.

Please consider what limiting the growth of wireless access will mean for rural America and Indian country. Wireless technology plays an ever-increasing role in economic growth and is a critical instrument in emergency situations, but if the recommended cap is implemented, many Indian reservations may never realize these benefits. In a country that prides itself on equality, it seems hypocritical to restrict certain individuals' access to an essential tool simply because of their geographic location, especially when they have contributed for years to the USF along with everyone else.

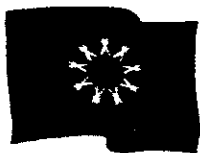
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I respectfully request that you carefully consider the efforts made by many Native American Tribes in their efforts to achieve some sense of parity in telecommunications compared with the rest of the country as you seek to reform the existing fund. I urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

Sincerely,

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE


John Yellow Bird Steele
President



OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

Economic and Business Development Committee

2006 ~ 2008

~P.O. Box 2070 Pine Ridge, SD 57770 ~

Phone: (605)867-5821 Ext. 260 ~ Fax: (605)867-2609

Austin Watkins Chairman

Don Garnier-Vice

Jason Little

Cora Whiting

Craig Dillon

Jim Meeks

Chuck Jacobs

Tom Poor Bear

Philip Good Crow



Lynn Gibbons-Secretary

John Tibbitts-Coordinator

To: Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

RE: Universal Service Reform - WC Docket No. 05-337 + *CL Docket*
No. 96-45

June 1, 2007

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

We understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. We are contacting you to express our opposition to this unfair and arbitrary proposal. While such an approach may provide a "quick-fix" to fund growth, it would also result in a terrible disservice to rural consumers in general and Native Americans on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in particular.

Native Americans, like other rural consumers, want and need expanded and improved wireless services in rural areas for public safety, healthcare, economic development, business and personal needs. This is one of the main benefits that rural consumers receive from the universal service fund, just as Congress envisioned when it initially established the fund in 1997. A wireless-only cap is clearly anti-competitive because it singles out wireless technology, which consumers are choosing more and more over landlines. In such isolated and economically depressed areas, such as the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, wireless communication is the only avenue through which communications can be obtained at a reasonable price.

Native Americans are no longer content to have access to only traditional wireline telephone service and are demanding access to the benefits of mobility that only wireless service provides. This mobility results in extremely important public safety benefits in rural areas. As rural consumers travel from home to work or school, wireless service provides a very valuable safety tool. Additionally, wireless service in rural areas provides consumers with access to broadband services where broadband services are not otherwise available. This is a very important factor as we seek to bring access to the information age throughout our reservation. Without continued support for the expansion and


upgrading of rural service, Native Americans on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation will not receive these benefits.

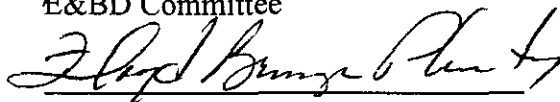
We have witnessed firsthand the benefits provided by expanded wireless services on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and we do not want to see those benefits diminished by inappropriate USF reform. Much of the expanded availability of wireless service in rural areas would not have occurred without the USF support provided to wireless ETCs who could not have economically extended their networks without such support.


Please consider what limiting the growth of wireless access will mean for rural America and Indian country. Wireless technology plays an ever-increasing role in economic growth and is a critical instrument in emergency situations, but if the recommended cap is implemented, many Indian reservations may never realize these benefits. In a country that prides itself on equality, it seems hypocritical to restrict certain individuals' access to an essential tool simply because of their geographic location, especially when they have contributed for years to the USF along with everyone else.

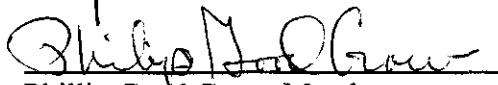
We respectfully request that you carefully consider these facts as you seek to reform the existing fund. We urge you to vote against the proposed cap on universal service support for wireless service.

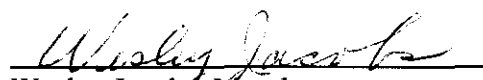
Sincerely,



Austin Watkins, Chairman
E&BD Committee


Floyd Brings Plenty, Member
E&BD Committee

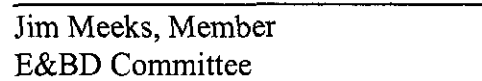

Craig Dillon, Member
E&BD Committee

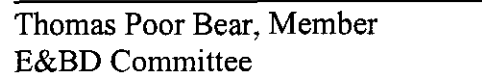

Phillip Good Crow, Member
E&BD Committee


Wesley Jacobs, Member
E&BD Committee

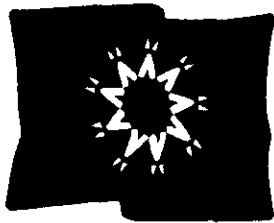

Don Garnier, Vice Chairman
E&BD Committee


Jason Little, Member
E&BD Committee


Jim Meeks, Member
E&BD Committee


Thomas Poor Bear, Member
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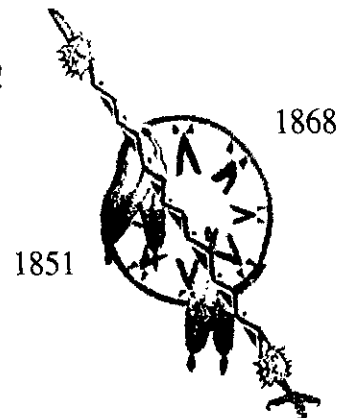

Cora Whiting, Member
E&BD Committee



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John Yellow Bird Steele

June 7, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Attn: Jane Jackson, Wireless Telecommunications
Shana Barehand, Tribal Liaison
Jeffrey Steinberg, Spectrum and Competition Policy Division
Stephen DelSordo, Federal Preservation Officer
Anne Marie Wypijewski, Senior Environmental Team Attorney

RE: Universal Service Reform/WC Docket No. 05-337 +
CL Docket No. 9645

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